

| Form PTO-1449<br><br><div style="text-align: center;"> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br/>IN AN APPLICATION</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">         (Use several sheets if necessary)       </div>                           |                 |                    |            | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           ATTY DOCKET NO.<br/>0171-0993P         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           APPLICATION NO.<br/>10/621,527         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           APPLICANT<br/>Nobuhiro ICHIROKU et al.         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           FILING DATE<br/>July 18, 2003         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           GROUP<br/>Unknown         </div> </div> |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---|---|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | DOCUMENT NUMBER | Kind               | DATE       | NAME  | CLASS   | SUB<br>CLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |                          |    |
| PH  | US 5,677,393    | A                  | 1997-10-14 | Ohmori et al.   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | US              |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS  |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   | Office          | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | Kind       | DATE  | COUNTRY   | CLASS        | SUB<br>CLASS                  | TRANSLATION/<br>ABSTRACT |    |
|   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               | YES                      | NO |
| PH<br>PH<br>PH<br>PH<br>PH  | JP              | 5-9254             | A          | 1993-01-19  | JAPAN   |              |                               | X                        |    |
|   | JP              | 6-116517           | A          | 1994-04-26  | JAPAN   |              |                               | X                        |    |
|   | JP              | 10-60111           | A          | 1998-03-03  | JAPAN   |              |                               | X                        |    |
|   | JP              | 6-271673           | A          | 1994-09-27  | JAPAN   |              |                               | X                        |    |
|   | JP              | 6-200216           | A          | 1994-07-19  | JAPAN   |              |                               | X                        |    |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
| (Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
|   |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |
| EXAMINER  |                 |                    |            |   | DATE CONSIDERED   |              |                               |                          |    |
| <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">P. H. G. L. S. M. E. R.</div>  |                 |                    |            |   | <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">9/04</div> |              |                               |                          |    |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.                     |                 |                    |            |   |   |              |                               |                          |    |